

Message Text

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TAGS: IS, US, EAIR
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AMIT ON U.S.- ISRAELI BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE (EMBASSY TRANSLATION) APPEARED
IN HAARETZ ON JUNE 1:

QUOTE.
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND OFFICIALS OF CIVIL AVIATION IN THE
U.S. WILL COMMENCE IN JUNE 26, 1978. THERE IS GROUND
TO BELIEVE THAT ISRAEL WILL SECURE LANDING RIGHTS AT TWO ADDITIONAL
PLACES IN THE U.S.
THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, MEIR AMIT, ON
HIS RETURN FROM NEW YORK. THE MINISTER STATED ISRAEL WOULD NOT BE
INTERESTED IN SECURING ONLY ONE LANDING PLACE, AND SHOULD IT FAIL TO
RECEIVE TWO LANDING PLACES NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE.

THREE TOPICS
AMIT STATED THAT DURING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH CIVIL AVIATION
OFFICIALS IN THE U.S. THREE POINTS HAVE BEEN RAISED: GIVING ADDITIONAL

LANDING RIGHTS TO EL AL IN BOSTON, CHICAGO, LOS ANGELES AND
MIAMI, CHARTERED FLIGHT FROM THE ENTIRE U.S. TO ISRAEL AND A NEW PRICE

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STRUCTURE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ESTABLISHING REDUCED FLIGHT
RATES.
AMIT FURTHER STATED THAT THESE WERE PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS PRIOR
TO ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS AND IT APPEARS THAT THIS WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR
GRANTING ADDITIONAL LANDING POINTS TO EL AL IN THE U.S. AVIATION
POLICY OF THE U.S. IS NOW MORE OPEN AND AMERICANS ARE EVEN EXPOSING
THEMSELVES TO COMPETITION.

ADDITIONAL CHARTER FLIGHT FROM THE U.S.

ISRAEL, FOR ITS PART, WILL GIVE THE U.S. EXTENDED RIGHTS TO CHARTER FLIGHT AND IN AMIT'S OPINION THIS WILL BE A FAIR DEAL FOR GIVING THE ADDITIONAL LANDING RIGHTS TO EL AL. AMIT ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE SUBJECT OF CHEAP FLIGHT OF TWA HAS BEEN SETTLED.

MR. AMIT STRESSED THAT TWA HAS UNILATERALLY TAKEN UPON ITSELF THE RIGHTS OF REDUCING FARES; HOWEVER, AT PRESENT IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT ISRAEL WILL ALLOW THIS COMPANY TO EFFECT THE REDUCTION FOR A PERIOD OF THREE ADDITIONAL MONTHS AND CONCURRENTLY EL AL WILL BE

GRANTED THE SAME RIGHTS UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

DIFFICULT DAYS AHEAD

AMIT'S IMPRESSION IS THAT THERE WILL BE DIFFICULT DAYS AHEAD FOR EL AL IN THE FACE OF WILD COMPETITION THAT EXIST TODAY AMONG AVIATION COMPANIES. AMIT PARTICULARLY STRESSED THAT EL AL MUST ACHIEVE MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY IN ITS OWN AIR FLIGHTS IN ORDER TO REACH THE

SAME SERVICE STANDARDS OF OTHER AVIATION COMPANIES.

TO AMIT'S KNOWLEDGE AVIATION COMPANIES ARE TAKING EXTREME STEPS AND EVEN LOSING MONEY IN ORDER TO KEEP TO THE FLIGHT SCHEDULES THEY ANNOUNCE. END OF QUOTE.

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